

Washington to have American Premieres of two Productions this Week



LIANE CARRERA
—National—

E. H. Sothern Returns to Early Love in Sutro Comedy. National Inaugurates Season.

By JULIA CHANDLER MANZ.

In the matter of local theatrical interests the past week has been a hummer.

So many and fast and important have come announcements that each successive one has brought with it a little whiff of excitement.

Of prime importance—and furnishing one of the most notable dramatic events the current season is likely to bring us—is E. H. Sothern's appearance here at the Belasco Theater tomorrow night in the American premiere of Alfred Sutro's modern comedy "The Two Virtues," in which he is supported by Charlotte Walker and a distinguished cast of players.

Aside from the interest invariably felt in first productions Mr. Sothern's return to a comedy role after many years' devotion to classical drama is a momentous matter.

Of course you know that he won his first laurels in comedy, his reputation as a romantic actor having been delayed until 1895 when he achieved signal success in "The Prisoner of Zenda."

In between the then and now came the years of devotion to classical drama in which Mr. Sothern and Miss Marlowe have furnished some of the brightest pages of stage history, having written their chapter in letters of genius, and with an artistry so great that the heart of all America was made sad through the announcement this summer that Miss Marlowe's ill health would necessitate her permanent retirement from the stage.

So tinged with tragedy and grief was Mr. Sothern's loss of his wife as a co-star that for a time it was feared that theatergoers would have to forego the pleasure of seeing him also this season, but Miss Marlowe herself prevailed upon him to return to comedy—the early love of his profession—and we gratefully acknowledge our debt of gratitude to her.

While the presentation of "The Two Virtues" at the Belasco tomorrow evening represents the first production of the Sutro comedy upon the American stage it is not the premiere of the piece, which was seen in London last season, with Sir George Alexander in the role which Mr. Sothern will assume in this country under the joint direction of Lee Shubert and Winthrop Ames.

When cornered last week concerning just what might be Alfred Sutro's conception of "THE Two Virtues," Mr. Taylor called my attention to the following comment in last week's Belasco Theater program:

"In 'The Two Virtues' Sutro has delicately satirized the intolerance of woman toward the unfortunate ones of her kind, apropos of which he makes the startling remark that charity in a woman is a greater virtue than chastity."

Which, when the least has been said, furnishes considerable food for thought, and promises an extremely interesting theme for a play.

So great was my wish to know just why Mr. Sothern has chosen a reversion to comedy for his return to the stage that Mr. Taylor volunteered a long distance confab with F. J. Wistach, press representative for the Shuberts, which resulted in the later receipt of the following wire:

"E. H. S." is going into comedy because he likes that sort of thing. The labor of producing Shakespeare is enormous. Hence comedy. Mr. S. is a merry person."

Playing opposite Mr. Sothern in the Sutro piece will be Charlotte Walker, who has won our admiration through the sincerity and finesse of her work so many times that we cannot but feel the certainty of satisfaction and pleasure in her new performance.

Miss Walker is one of the younger school of actresses, having won her greatest distinction in "The Warrens of Virginia," "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine," while last year, during the brief life of the Eugene Walter melodrama, "The Better Way," she scored nothing short of a personal triumph in her interpretation of the principle role.

Of the other members of the cast we will remember Blanche Yurka for the highly artistic performances she gave at the Belasco Theater five summers ago when the Butterfield Players had their brief fight for stock existence, and Haidee Wright for her impersonation of "the painted lady" in "The Passing of the Third Floor Back" as well as for her excellent performance with Ethel Barrymore in "Tante."

Liane Carrera will tomorrow evening enjoy the double distinction of opening the new dramatic year of the New National Theater and making her debut in a musical farce which will have its first American presentation in this city, furnishing the young daughter of Anna Held her means of escape from vaudeville, in which she made a flier.

If you saw her when she was here at Keith's you know already that in personal appearance she is "a chip off the old block," being petite and plump like Anna, and having her mother's big brown eyes, although 'tis said that the degree of will power and obstinacy contained in the little lady is a product distinctly her own.

Anna Held has always objected to the stage as a career for her young daughter. Mlle. Liane will tell you with a giggle that she was invariably sent from the room when her famous mother did her practicing, and that no parental blessing has been given to her choice of a profession.

Whether she has the ability to win the public through chic and charm and the making of goo-goo eyes, as did the mater in the "good old days," remains to be seen.

In any event she is to be given every opportunity, for the piece chosen for her debut is one of those snappy French farces set to music, which has been enjoyed by Paris, Vienna and Berlin before having its American pre-

sentation, furnishing Mlle. Liane every possible chance for the exploitation of vocal ability and personal charm.

The final disposition of the Columbia Theater did not come entirely as a surprise.

Inability on the part of Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger to furnish enough suitable attractions for two first-class theaters in Washington has been for some time an obvious situation. They have, in these days when good plays are as scarce as hen's teeth, about all they can do to supply high-class entertainment for one house, so it was inevitable that there should be this year a change in the policy of the Columbia Theater.

Marcus Loew has had a hankering after the F street playhouse ever since he began negotiations for its rental from the Messrs. Metzger some three years ago. It had been frequently intimated to me during the intervening time that he'd never be happy until he got it, and fulfilled his pet ambition of operating a theater in this city.

When I found him one afternoon last week chatting animatedly with Mr. Frank Metzger in the lobby of the Columbia and asked his plans he confessed that they were not yet completely formulated and laughingly admitted that he had quite forgotten his new acquisition until his New York office called his attention to it, when he came to Washington, post haste, to look over his property and decide upon a policy for the house.

It is inevitable that one should feel a touch of sadness with the passing of a theater that has housed so many artistic productions, particularly if it is also to mean the assumption of new activities by Mr. Fred Berger, who was for twenty years manager of Sol Smith Russell, and who undertook the management of the F street playhouse at the expiration of the Luckett and Dyer lease in the summer of 1908, for, since the opening of the season of 1908-9 at the Columbia Theater, Mr. Berger has won a warm and lasting regard in a position which he has filled with every possible courtesy and dignity.

CURRENT WEEK IN LOCAL THEATERS

Belasco—E. H. Sothern in "The Two Virtues."

"The Two Virtues," in which E. H. Sothern will make his reappearance in modern comedy after an absence of many years, will have its premiere performance at the Belasco Theater tomorrow night. "The Two Virtues" is a recent work of Alfred Sutro and is described as a comedy in four acts. The presentation is being made under the joint direction of Lee Shubert and Winthrop Ames. Mr. Shubert and Mr. Ames have provided Mr. Sothern with a leading woman in the person of Charlotte Walker, who was chosen after many actresses had been considered for the part.

In the play Mr. Sothern will play the role of Jeffery Paston, a rich, eccentric, middle-aged bachelor, who, through an unfortunate love affair in which his namesake marries another man, seeks redemption in his study, where, undisturbed, he can meditate on the memories of his lost Isabel, tangibly represented by a portrait and a pair of gloves, and devote himself to the writing of a voluminous history of the world. After five years his complacent life is much disturbed by a visit from Isabel, whose husband, it seems, has sought inspiration for his epic poem in the sympathy of Mrs. Goudford, a woman of questionable reputation. Isabel pleads with Je-

fery to save her husband from Mrs. Goudford, Jeffery, much against his will, visits the apartment of the infamous Mrs. Goudford, and, to his astonishment, discovers her to be a woman of noble qualities. Finding Mrs. Goudford versed in a knowledge of history that would help him greatly in his History of the World, Jeffery engages her as his collaborator, and in the end discovers that the spark of love he had kept alive for Isabel has flamed anew for Mrs. Goudford. In spite of his sister's threat to ostracize him from her society, he proceeds to marry the notorious Mrs. Goudford.

Prominent in the cast are Haidee Wright, Blanche Yurka, Pauline Wilson, Orlando Daly, Albert Howson, and Florence Phelps. Matinees Wednesday and Saturday as usual.

National—"Too Near Paris."

At the National Theater this week is a French farce entitled "Too Near Paris," the book of which is by Marcel Janvier. It has been adapted for the American stage. John W. Ransome, its interpretation of Hans Wagner in the original Prince of Pilsen company, has been secured for the German comedy role of Schmidt, the stranded musician of the story.

Another important member of this organization is Liane Carrera, Anna Held's daughter, who canceled her vaudeville tour to create the role of Yvonne, the little French girl, whose mother has placed her in a convent and who longs to see all that goes on in a naughty world. This will be Mlle. Carrera's debut in an English speaking part and also her first appearance in musical comedy, a field wherein her famous mother reigned supreme.

Another acquisition to the company is Henrietta Lee, a song bird who will be remembered as the original widow in "The Prince of Pilsen," as also with the Hoyt musical farces and with Richard Carle in "Mary's Lamb."

The role of Count De Maupassin, a gay old rouler, will be in the hands of Charles P. Morrison, a barytone with many years' experience in both this country and Europe, who is known to our play-loving people for his connection with "Gypsy Love," "The Sunshine Girl," and was last seen here with Julian Eltinge in "The Crinoline Girl."

Harriet Garrett, tenor; Nick Judels, comedians; Madge York, and Harry Humphries will be seen in other prominent roles. An unusually efficient singing chorus is demanded by the delightful music and scenes in "Too Near Paris" and a splendid array of choristers are promised.

The usual Wednesday and Saturday matinees will be given.

Keith—"The Grand Army Man."

The Keith management has secured its biggest coup in having secured for pre-

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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National—Liane Carrera in "Too Near Paris."
Keith—"The Grand Army Man."
Gayety—"The Golden Crook Co."
Cosmo—Vaudeville.
Casino—Vaudeville.
Lyceum—"Queens of the Folies Bergere."

Victor Morley and company of twelve players, including Carol Parson and Louis Baum, in the musical military maneuver called "A Regular Army Man," the words and lyrics by Channing Pollock and Renold Wolf, and the music by Clifton Crawford, with whom Augustus Barrett collaborated. Next will be Harry Fern and company in "Veterans," a comedy drama by John B. Hymer. The third special feature will be Col. Patten's "Old Soldier Fiddlers," a quintet of men who fought in the civil war, three on the Federal side and two with the Confederates. They fiddle individually and collectively many of the old-time dances, and melodies. In the vaudeville bill proper the added attraction is Gertrude Vanderbilt and George Moore in a new fantasy of character songs and dances. Co-starring with the Morley company will be Charles Grapewin, with Anna Chance and company, in "Poughkeepsie," the famous comedy of vaudeville.

Augusta Gliese, assisted by her father, Adolf Gliese, will offer impersonations and pianologue. Other numbers will be Horace Wright and Rene Dietrich; Harry Seebach, with the Seebachs in an arctic act; the pipe organ recitals and the bi-weekly Pathe news pictorial.

Today the concerts will present Sophy Barnard and Lou Anger and company, Bonnie Glass and Mons Rudolph, Kate Elinore and Sam Will-

ed reels and make fun in their own quaint way. Other attractions will include Morris Samuels and company in "A Day at Ellis Island," a pathetic comedy, with song interpolations; Allan and Francis in a singing and dancing skit, with comedy repartee; Twinto, the boneless wonder; Francis Renault, in one of the unique offerings of the season, and Adair and Wolfe, with all new songs and a bit of fun thrown in. The added attractions will include the latest Hearst-Selig news pictures, with photoplay features changed daily.

Till's overture "Tambour de Garde," Till's "Serenade," with duet for flute and horn, Manville's "Clockwork Polka," with bell solo by Jack Greaset, Gilbert's characteristic "Shadowland," Gottschalk's reverie, "Dying Poet," Robert's globe fox trot and Lampe's patrol, "I'm On My Way to Dublin Bay," with other selections will be a part of the concert program at the concert today. The entertainment will also include new specialties and feature photoplays.

Casino—Vaudeville.

"The Old Soldier Fiddlers" is the headline act for the week of the G. A. R. encampment. In this act three veterans of the war, all of whom appear in War Department records for meritorious service, will be heard in war time songs, bugle calls, fife and drum calls, and a rendition of "The Arkansas Traveler" as it was given sixty years ago.

The men who make up this act will be George W. Wolfe, of the Fourteenth Ill. Cavalry; George Patterson, of the Eighth Pennsylvania Cavalry, and James P. Roscoe, of the Tenth Ohio. All three will march in the G. A. R. parade.

Another act appropriate to encampment week will be that of the "Girls from the North and South" who will introduce costumes that will recall the sixties, and will sing songs of the North and the South that were popular during the struggle.

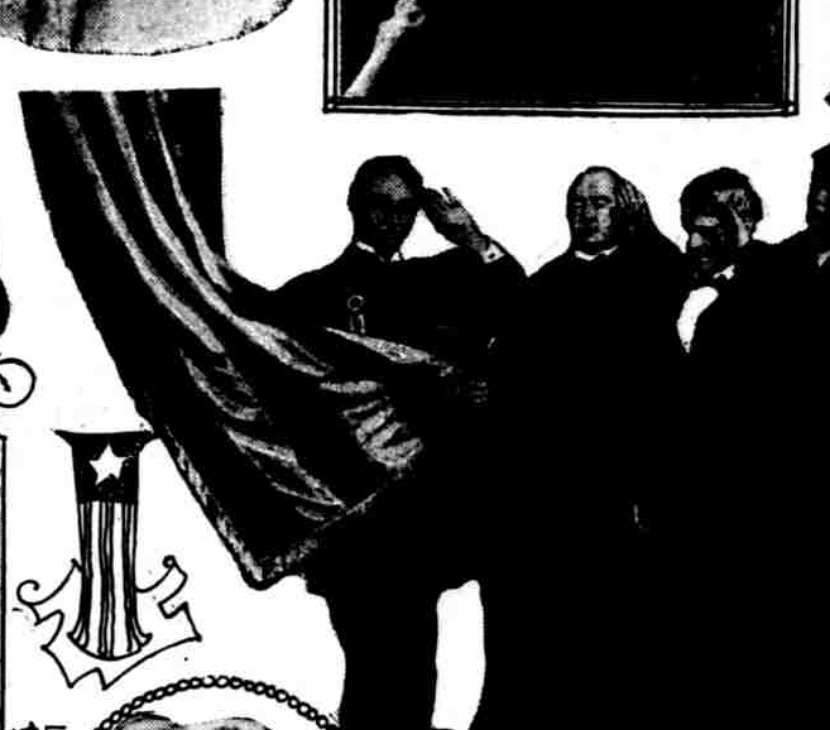
Comedy will be on tap when Tommy Van and the Ward Girls, appear in dancing and singing specialties. Rye and Rye have a comedy talking and gymnastic act. Ladel and Hughes will be heard in a matchy parody, "The popular songs and seen in eccentric dancing numbers. Friday night will mark another parcel post night.

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—BELASCO—



CAROL PARSON
—Keith's—



ELEANOR COCHRAN
—GAYETY—



MARGIE MALBORN
—LYCEUM—

SCENE FROM "THE GRAND ARMY MAN."
—POLI'S—

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